

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A toothbrush comprising:

a body ~~which comprises~~including a handle region, a head region and a neck region, which is located between the handle region and the head region; and

functional components which are arranged, at least in part, within the body and comprise an electrically operated functional unit and an electrical supply device for the functional unit, the electrical supply device having a rechargeable energy store and at least one contact element, ~~and it being possible, via the~~ at least one contact element, to being formed to produce an electrically conductive connection between the energy store and a power supply unit which, when in use, is located outside the body,

wherein the energy store is arranged in an inner space of the body, the inner space being sealed by a primary sealing element in order to prevent the energy store from coming into contact with splash water and other foreign matter, and

a secondary sealing element seals the at least one contact element during use of the toothbrush in order to prevent the contact element from coming into contact with splash water, the secondary sealing element being movable, at least in part, to render the at least one contact element accessible from outside the body for a charging operation.

2. (Original) The toothbrush as claimed in claim 1, wherein the inner space is permanently closed by the primary sealing element and the at least one contact element is arranged outside the inner space.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) The toothbrush as claimed in ~~claim 3~~claim 1, wherein the secondary sealing element can be displaced, pivoted, removed or pierced.

5. (Original) The toothbrush as claimed in claim 1, wherein the energy store and the at least one contact element are arranged within the inner space, the inner space being closable and openable at least to the extent where the at least one contact element is accessible from the outside at least for the charging operation.

6. (Currently Amended) A toothbrush comprising:
a body including a handle region, a head region and a neck region, which is located between the handle region and the head region, The toothbrush as claimed in claim 5,
wherein the body comprises comprising a first housing part and a second housing part, the handle region being formed by the first and/or second housing part, the first and second housing parts being movable relative to one another between an open position and a closed position, and
functional components which are arranged, at least in part, within the body and comprise an electrically operated functional unit and an electrical supply device for the functional unit, the electrical supply device having a rechargeable energy store and at least one contact element, the at least one contact element being formed to produce an electrically conductive connection between the energy store and a power supply unit which, when in use, is located outside the body,
wherein the energy store and the at least one contact element are arranged in an inner space of the body, the inner space being closable and openable at least to the extent where the at least one contact element is accessible from the outside at least for a charging operation when the first and second housing parts are in the open position and the inner space is sealed at least against splash water when the first and second housing parts are in the closed position.

7. (Original) The toothbrush as claimed in claim 6, wherein the second housing part is designed as a closure that closes off the inner space.

8. (Original) The toothbrush as claimed in claim 6, wherein one of the first and/or second housing part is displaceable along a longitudinal axis of the body.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Original) The toothbrush as claimed in claim 6, wherein the first and second housing parts are screwed to one another, use preferably being made of a thread with a distance-limiting means.

11. (Currently Amended) The toothbrush as claimed in claim 6, wherein a switch interacts with the second housing ~~part,~~part to deactivate the functional unit when the first and second housing parts are in the open position.

12. (Currently Amended) The toothbrush as claimed in claim 11, wherein the switch comprises the contact element and a part which can be moved relative thereto, the part, in the closed position being connected in an electrically conductive manner to the contact element.

13. (Original) The toothbrush as claimed in claim 5, wherein the contact element has a pin which is connected directly in an electrically conductive manner to a terminal of the energy store.

14. (Currently Amended) The toothbrush as claimed in claim 2, wherein the at least one contact element is arranged within a cutout in the brush body, with the result that ~~it~~the at least one contact element is offset inward relative to the outer surface of the brush body.

15. (Currently Amended) The toothbrush as claimed in claim 14, wherein the cutout is oriented away from ~~the dead region~~a direction in which any water on the toothbrush would flow when the toothbrush is placed in a set down position after usage.

16. (Original) The toothbrush as claimed in claim 14, wherein the shape of the cutout is adapted to the shape of a further contact element of a power supply unit for the energy store.

17. (Original) A process for producing a toothbrush as claimed in claim 1, which comprises:

producing the body by injection molding from at least one hard component which serves as reinforcement;

inserting the functional unit into or onto the body; and

integrally molding a soft component such that the functional unit is directly encapsulated, at least in part, by the soft component.

18. (Original) The process as claimed in claim 17, wherein the electrical supply device is inserted into the inner space once the soft component has been produced, the inner space then being sealed by the primary sealing element formed from a soft and/or hard component.

19. (Original) The process as claimed in claim 17, wherein the electrical supply device is inserted into the inner space before the soft component has been produced, and in that the soft component is then integrally molded such that the contact element is embedded, at least in part, in the soft component, and the inner space is sealed by a primary sealing element formed from the soft component.

20. (Original) The process as claimed in claim 17, wherein all soft-component structures of the soft component are formed in one operation.

21. (Original) The process as claimed in claim 20, wherein soft-component structures include cleaning elements, damping elements in the neck region and/or in the inner space, soft/resilient structures on the body, and sealing elements.

22. (Original) A saleable product comprising a toothbrush as claimed in claim 1 and a power supply unit having a contact element, the toothbrush and the power supply unit being arranged in a pack such that at least one of the contact elements of the power supply unit or of the toothbrush is visible from the outside.

23. (New) A toothbrush, comprising:
a body including a handle region, a head region and a neck region, which is located between the handle region and the head region, the body comprising a first housing part and a second housing part, the handle region being formed by the first and/or second housing part, the first and second housing parts being movable relative to one another between an open position and a closed position,

functional components that are arranged, at least in part, within the body and comprise an electrically operated functional unit and an electrical supply device for the functional unit, the electrical supply device having a rechargeable energy store and at least one contact element, and

a switch that interacts with the second housing part to deactivate the functional unit when the first and second housing parts are in the open position,

the at least one contact element being formed to produce an electrically conductive connection between the energy store and a power supply unit which, when in use, is located outside the body,

wherein the energy store and the at least one contact element are arranged in an inner space of the body, the inner space being closable and openable at least to the extent where the at least one contact element is accessible from the outside at least for a charging operation when the first and second housing parts are in the open position and the inner space is sealed at least against splash water when the first and second housing parts are in the closed position.

24. (New) A saleable product comprising a toothbrush as claimed in claim 23 and a power supply unit having a contact element, the toothbrush and the power supply unit being arranged in a pack.

25. (New) The toothbrush according to claim 6, wherein the contact element and the energy store are arranged at a carrier unit forming a storage-battery subassembly.

26. (New) The toothbrush according to claim 25, wherein the storage-battery subassembly has the size of a conventional battery.

27. (New) The toothbrush according to claim 25, wherein the carrier unit is connected to the body using snap-action means.

28. (New) The toothbrush according to claim 6, wherein the first housing part is permanently connected to the second housing part.

29. (New) The toothbrush according to claim 6, wherein the contact element is arranged in the immediate vicinity of a separating plane between the first and second housing part.

30. (New) The toothbrush according to claim 6, comprising at least one structure-forming hard component and at least one soft component.

31. (New) The toothbrush according to claim 30, wherein the at least one hard component is chosen from the group consisting of polystyrene, acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene, styrene-acrylonitrile, polyester, polyamide, and polypropylene, and the at least one soft component is a thermoplastic elastomer.

32. (New) The toothbrush according to claim 6, wherein the functional unit is deactivated during the charging operation.

33. (New) The toothbrush according to claim 32, wherein a switch cooperates with the contact element and decouples the functional unit during the charging operation such that only the energy store is charged.

34. (New) The toothbrush according to claim 13, wherein the second housing part comprises a contact element and the first housing part comprises contact bridges, the contact element contacting the pin and the contact bridges in an electrically conductive manner.

35. (New) The toothbrush according to claim 6, wherein the contact element is oriented in such a way that a plugging direction is oriented in a longitudinal direction of the toothbrush or perpendicular thereto.

36. (New) The toothbrush according to claim 6, wherein a shield is arranged in a region of the contact element to shield the functional components other than the contact element against splash water in the open position.